POÈME 50

Chihayafuru

New Student Orientation for After-School Clubs
1-Official Speeches
2-Presentation of the clubs
Baseball
Soccer
Tennis
Athletics
Radio
Newspaper
Karuta
Mountaineering
Tea Ceremony
Handball
BLA
BLA
BLA
BLA
THAT STRAP IS SO CUTE!
WHICH ONE?
YOUR BAG, ISN'T IT A LIMITED EDITION?! WAAH, SO CUTE!
WE GIRLS...
THE SCHOOL BADGE IS PRETTY, TOO! ♡
DID YOU SEE OUR SCHOOL CARD? IT'S PINK!
WE LOVE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.
YOUR LAST NAME IS HANANO, ISN'T IT?
UM... OUR NUMBERS ARE REALLY CLOSE...
AND, OF COURSE, WE WANT TO BE AS PRETTY AS POSSIBLE.
I LOVE YOUR MASCARA!
WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME?
MINE'S HINAKO!

HANANO SUMIRE!
AND WE ARE CONSTANTLY SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE TO LOVE US.
UM ... WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING ...?
I'M KEEPING A LOOKOUT, OF COURSE!
AH, THERE'S ONE THAT'S NOT BAD IN CLASS 1!
Her name means "violet" pity it contrasts with her character.
Is she a hunter?
HE TOSSED ME ASIDE, JUST BECAUSE OUR NEW SCHOOLS ARE A LITTLE FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER. BUT I WILL AVENGE MYSELF!
I'LL HOOK A PURE AND BEAUTIFUL BOY!

CLUB PRESIDENT, MASHIMA TAICHI
A RARE PEARL!
NEXT, WE HAVE THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU KARUTA CLUB

BOBOM
CAP...
CAPTAIN,
CHIHAYA AYASE.
YES! ALL EYES ARE ON THEM! THIS IS GOOD!
HEH HEH ...
what is that...
it's a kimono! a real kimono!
so pretty!
he's so hot!
Kana, responsible for club development

BEFORE EVERYONE GETS THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT OUR BEAUTIFUL CLUB...
"I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED..."
"NOBODY KNOWS THIS GAME..."
"KARUTA CLUB? WHAT'S THAT?"
stays in the back and tries to appear graceful (as instructed by Kana)
IN ORDER TO INSPIRE IN THE NEW STUDENTS THAT SENSE OF ADMIRATION THAT ALL JAPANESE FEEL AT THE SIGHT OF A BEAUTIFUL KIMONO!
WE HAVE TO SHOW OFF OUR STRONG POINTS: CHIHAYA-CHAN AND THE PRESIDENT (AND ONLY THEM) IN TRADITIONAL CLOTHING!
HANA--
HEY, HEY, HANANO -SAN!
THAT GUY IS PRETTY TOP-QUALITY, ISN'T HE?
WE WILL HONE IN ON THE FIRST YEARS, LIKE AN EAGLE TO ITS PREY!
claw

↑ KING OF EAGLES

YOU DEFINITELY WILL BE STAYING QUIETLY IN THE BACK.

the shock !

IF WE SHOW OFF THAT SPEED FIRST ...

LIKE THIS !

AND IF I DID A DEMONSTRATION? IT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO EXPLAIN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GAME !

...

I...
I'VE...

BOBOM
BOBOM

AH...
UM..
YES...
THAT...

WHA?

ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ADD, CAPTAIN?

AND MY WISH IS TO PASS ON MY PASSION TO AT LEAST 100 PEOPLE !

I DON'T HAVE LOT OF FRIENDS IN THE PROPER SENSE OF THE WORD...

B...BUT MY GOAL IS TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH ALL 100 CARDS IN KARUTA ...

"Become friends with karuta" ....?

BROUHAHA

100 people ?!

you're too greedy, Karuta Club...!

DO YOU REALLY HAVE NO FRIENDS ?!

IT'S TOO MUCH

MIZUSAWA 7

IN ANY CASE...

I'VE FOUND IT.

SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH

PRETTY AND A NATURAL AIRHEAD....

HA HA HA HA HA!

IDIOT!

she's cute.

...

HOW ANNOYING!

WE GAVE IT OUR ALL YESTERDAY!

I HOPE OUR EFFORTS WON'T GO TO WASTE...

SO DO YOU THINK ANYONE WILL WANT TO JOIN?!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ALTHOUGH...

I'M ACTUALLY MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF WE END UP WITH TOO MANY...

IT'S JUST...

I'M SURE YOUR SPEECH MADE AN IMPACT!

WE NEED AT LEAST FIVE TO JOIN, JUST FOR THE SAKE OF THE CLUB ROOM...

IF THEY DON'T COME, IT'LL BE A PROBLEM!

...LIKE WHO'LL BE IN CHARGE OF TEACHING THEM THE BASICS...

IF A TON OF FIRST YEARS DO DECIDE TO JOIN...

WE'LL NEED TO PROPERLY DECIDE THINGS...

FLAP

chapter 3

I CAN DO IT

DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PRACTICE TO DO ...?

CAN I CAN I CAN I CAN I

WHY DO YOU EVEN WANT TO?! YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY THE ONE LEAST SUITED FOR THIS

WHY YOU ?!

FIRST YEARS... I WONDER HOW MANY WILL COME...

THAT I GOT TO BUY THANKS TO THE INCREASED CLUB BUDGET ...

the numbers are written on the back

WITH THESE BRAND-NEW CARDS

THEY CAN COME TO LOVE KARUTA

I HOPE ...

LIKE THAT ...

THE CLUB THAT WE CREATED ...

かるた部

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF IF IT COULD CONTINUE TO EXIST?

AH!

TOC

TOC

*The back of Chihaya's shirt reads "Karuta Club"

GOOD AFTERNOON! ♡

SENPAI...? WHAT'S WRONG?

? ? ?

PLIC PLIC PLIC PLIC PLIC

ARE YOU OKAY ...?

HI

PLEASE TAKE MINE TOO !

After School Club Registration Form

Karuta Club

Year 1, Class 5, Seat 24

Hanano Sumire

HERE'S MY FORM !

YOU'RE SURE ...?

YOU REALLY WANT TO JOIN?

YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE ?

THANK YOU FOR COMING !

HERE ARE OUR CLUB REGISTRATION FORMS ...

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF US~!

*The kanji for Sumire (which means violet) is 菫. Chihaya is confusing it with 韮 (which means leek).

IS SHE DOING THIS ON PURPOSE .....?!

THIS IS ...

NO, SHE'S ....

A NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL, DITZY IDIOT...

THE ENEMY OF ALL WOMEN !

NI... NIRA...?

NIRA* -CHAN ?

AS I THOUGHT, THAT WOMAN .... IS DEFINITELY AN ENEMY !

...

SO... YOUR NAME IS...

SU... SUMIRE -CHAN !!

CHIHAYA, YOU IDIOT

THAT'S "SUMIRE"! SU. MI. RE.

かるた部

IT DIDN'T SHOW WHILE WEARING HAKAMA...

BUT, WOW ...

FIRST, LET'S INTRODUCE THE CURRENT CLUB MEMBERS!

SO, UM..

SA WA GO

MI

STARTING FROM THE LEFT...

EXCUSE ME, CAN I ASK A QUESTION ?

WA

SHE HAS AN AMAZING FIGURE !

THEY LOOK GOOD TOGETHER ...

DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND ?

PRE-SIDENT MASHI-MA...

HIIII

CLAP

?!

HA HA HA HA !

OH LA LA !

SHE ACTUALLY SAID IT !

HANANO -SAN IS GREAT !

Hiii !

GLOUPS

IT IS NOT YOUR TURN TO SPEAK !

YOUR SENIORS ARE TALKING !

I'll be busy with the tennis club

I'm counting on you to be my replacement, Ooe-san!

ENEMY !!

SHE'S SO TINY BUT HER TITS ARE HUGE!

I'M PASSING OUT COPIES OF THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU! THE DETERMINING SYLLABLE FOR EACH POEM IS MARKED AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE MEANING IS PROVIDED

(COURTESY OF KANA-CHAN)

OKAY, NO BIG DEAL!

EVERYONE HAS TO START SOMEWHERE!

EVERYONE SHOULD DEFINITELY BEGIN LEARNING THESE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

SHHH

OKAY, WHO HERE HAS PLAYED COMPETITIVE KARUTA BEFORE?

SHHH

DOES ANYONE KNOW THE 100 POEMS OF THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU?

CLING

BLA

ZU

BLA

BLA

BLA

BLA

WE HAVE TO DO ALL THIS JUST TO PLAY A GAME...?

it's not gonna be hard, is it....

How many pages are in this thing?!

WHY?

HUH...?

WE HAVE TO *MEMORIZE* THESE?

IF YOU FAIL, YOU WILL STILL HAVE THE OPTION TO TEST AGAIN.

ANYONE WHO DOES NOT KNOW ALL 100 POEMS BY HEART WILL BE ELIMINATED.

ONE WEEK FROM NOW, THERE WILL BE AN EXAM.

SINCE MOST OF YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF COMPETITIVE KARUTA YET...

WELL THEN, THAT'S THAT!

eh ?

me ?

I'LL GO OVER THE RULES.

BUT...

IF THEY CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE POEMS, THERE'S NO POINT IN CONTINUING !

THEY'RE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, SURELY THEY CAN MANAGE THIS MUCH.

BLA #'7

BLA #'7

ONE WEEK, THAT'S JUST TOO SHORT!

KA... KANA-CHAN, THAT'S ....

a test ?

THE PLAYERS TAKE 25 CARDS EACH AND ARRANGE THEM IN ROWS ON THEIR OWN TERRITORY, WHICH IS SEPARATED FROM THE OPPONENT'S BY 3 CM.

the playing field is 18 cm wide.

3 CM...

A SINGLE KARUTA MATCH IS PLAYED ONE ON ONE.

FIRST, FROM THE 100 POEMS OF THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU, 50 ARE CHOSEN FOR PLAY. THE OTHER 50 WILL REMAIN IN THE BOX.

THIS IS THE BASIC SETUP.

He he !

ONE IS ENOUGH FOR ME !

gotta show off my strong points!

SINCE TODAY IS JUST AN EXAMPLE, WE'LL ONLY DO IT FOR THREE.

HUH?

memorize the placement ?

NEXT, WE HAVE 15 MINUTES TO MEMORIZE THE PLACEMENT OF THE 50 CARDS IN PLAY.

such vast knowledge, Kana-chan

THE POEM SPEAKS OF THE BAY OF NANIWA, WHICH IS THE ANCIENT NAME FOR THE OSAKA REGION, AND DURING THE HEIAN PERIOD (794-1185), IT WAS SAID TO BE WELL-KNOWN THROUGHOUT JAPAN. IT IS FOR THIS REASON IT WAS CHOSEN...

IT IS NOT PART OF THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU.

THE POEM THAT IS RECITED AT THE START OF A MATCH IS CALLED THE "JOKA".

ZU

BOOOH

ポカ

sa i
ku ma
ya wo
ko ha
no ru
ha be
na to

fu sa na
yu ku ni
go ya wa
mo ko zu
ri no ni
ha
na

BAM

mi
ka
ki
mo
ri

sa i
ku ma
ya wo
ko ha
no ru
ha be
na to

DOM

ko i su cho u

HUH ?

WHAT IS THIS ?

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THESE PEOPLE DOING?

ぬぎぬぎ

AN OVERVIEW OF THE GAME.

WELL, THERE YOU GO...

OUR GOAL: TO QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL TOURNA-MENT!

SO, DO YOUR BEST!

SO THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CAPTURE THEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

START BY LEARNING THE POEMS, THEN THE DETERMINING SYLLABLES ...

AFTER THAT, YOU'LL FIGURE OUT HOW YOU WANT TO ARRANGE YOUR CARDS ...

*Literally, "flip the monk." A simple card drawing game based on the illustrations of the Karuta cards.

AND INSTEAD JUST HANG OUT IN A CORNER PLAYING BOUZUMEKURI* WITH THE CARDS...

AND IF WE DECIDE NOT TO TAKE PART IN YOUR INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE GAME....

IS THAT NOT, OKAY ?

10

12

PFF

...

UHH...

BUT BOUZUMEKURI IS GOOD, RIGHT ?

I DON'T KNOW THAT ONE EITHER ...

HA HA HA HA HA THERE'S NO CHANCE !

UGH ...

BUT, CAN YOU REALLY SEE US PLAYING THAT ?!

HANANO-SAN, YOU'RE TOO DIRECT !

DOOM

HA HA HA HA

CLAC

OKAY, FOR THE TIME BEING, WE'LL START ON THESE POEMS. WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO REMEMBER THEM!

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK !

...

IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS THE FIRST TIME.

sadly resigned →

UGH... EVEN SO...

DON'T YOU THINK ?

FOR NOW, IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO INTRODUCE THEM LITTLE BY LITTLE ...

AND WE STILL GOT 20 SIGN-UPS!

SA

かるた部

JA

かるた部

ZU

HUH?

CHIHA-YA...

MI

EH ?

YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO BE TEACHING KARUTA TO UNMOTIVATED FIRST-YEARS.

...

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO TAKE A BREAK FROM CLUB ACTIVITES AND ATTEND SHIRANAMI'S PRACTICES ?

IF YOU'RE SERIOUSLY AIMING TO QUALIFY ....

YOU HAVE LESS THAN SIX MONTHS UNTIL THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE QUEEN TOURNAMENT !

WAIT A MINUTE, MASHIMA ...

BEFORE THE MEIJIN-QUEEN TOURNA-MENT ...

WHAT ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION-SHIPS? THEY'RE EVEN CLOSER!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR WE'LL BE COMPETING AS A TEAM ...

BUT YOU'D PREFER TO CONCENTRATE ON INDIVIDUAL MATCHES?

I KNOW YOU'RE FEELING THE PRESSURE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ADVANCE TO RANK A, BUT ...

...

MEAT-BUN-KUN!

I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF TRAINING THE NEW MEMBERS.

BUT WE DON'T NEED 20 NEW PEOPLE.

I WILL BE STRICT, AND I WILL ALLOW ONLY THE STUDENTS WHO CAN KEEP UP TO STAY.

WHAT?!

BUT, KANA...

ALL WE NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION-SHIPS IS THE FIVE OF US!

IF THE FIRST-YEARS ONLY WANT TO SIT IN A CORNER

AND PLAY BOUZUMEKURI, WE SHOULD JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH.

I THINK THAT IS THE BEST METHOD.

WE NEED TO TRAIN OUR KOUHAI PROPERLY !

BUT... EVERYONE.... WHY ...?

IF WE DON'T SHOW THEM HOW, THEY'LL NEVER COME TO LOVE KARUTA...

...AND OUR CLUB WILL EVENTUALLY DISAPPEAR!

SA

MI

?

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU EXPECTING FROM THESE FIRST-YEARS ?

AYASE ...

SA

SA

THE ONES DOING THE ACTUAL WINNING WILL BE US, WON'T THEY?

WA SA ZU MI

BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST-YEARS....

I HADN'T REALLY REALIZED IT, BUT....

FOR EACH ONE OF US...

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...

IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.